

KINDERBOOK

Kan Takahama

With clever, very subtle - even when her
manga are very direct, Kan Takahama
explores subjects as diverse as suicide pacts,
mermaids, making a porno film and bar
chic with a robust yet delicate grace.
Recently, the most talented mangaka to
recently emerged from Japan, Kan
Takahama's art and story telling will
surprise when least expected.

KINDERBOOK

Kan Takahama



Kan Takahara was born in 1977 in Amakusa, Japan.

Hiring completed her studies in contemporary art, she made her debut in manga by participating in a contest organized by the famed underground magazine *Garo* towards the end of the year 2000. Her story, "Women Who Survive" (which is the opening story of this volume), won first prize and was published in the January 2001 edition of the magazine. Her works appeared regularly in *Garo* thru 2001 and 2002 and was collected in an album, "Yellowbacks" published in February 2002 by Seirindo (Japan). After meeting Frédéric Bolet in April 2002 she became part of the "Nouvelle Manga" movement. Together they produced "Mariko Parade" which was published in Japan in January 2003, in France that September and will be released in English, Spanish and other European languages in December.

Following a trip to France for the Festival of Angoulême in January 2003, Kan Takahara published her first story in French, "Bons Baisers d'Angoulême", an enchanting and good-humored account about her visit, in issue n° 2 of *Bang!* magazine.

More recently Kan was invited to contribute to "The Comics Journal" Winter Special and her original strip will appear in the January 2004 release.

<http://www.h3.dion.ne.jp/~monte/index.html>

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[KINDERBOOK]

Kan Takahama



KINDERBOOK

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Good Breeding

Madame Elliot and Me

As we walked through the wood, Madame "Elliot" told me that an adulterous couple met every week in the delivery van that was parked near the path. According to her, the violence with which the van shook during these encounters was proof enough. Because of my poor French the lady, who was clearly well bred, was obliged to explain the 'car sex' to me in exaggerated gestures. She walks in the Bois de Boulogne every day with her pet dog Elliot and sometimes, after making a few purchases, has tea with an old friend. Their conversation is limited to real estate and gossip... Occasionally they talk about the amount of exercise their dogs need. As she hardly ever spoke of her husband, I forgot to ask her real name.

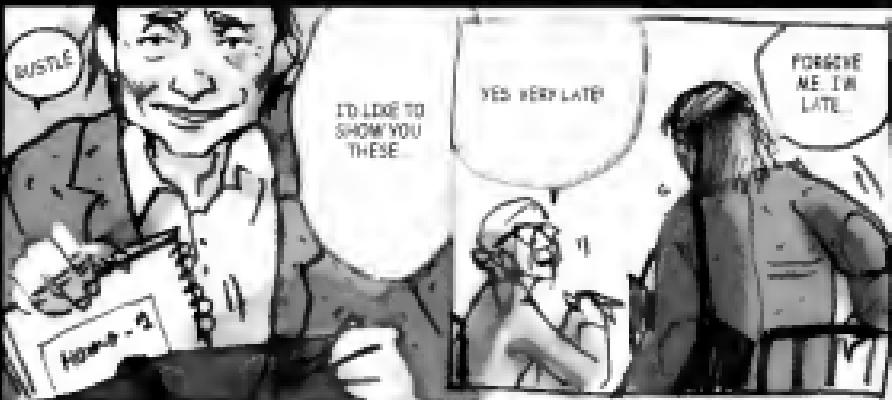


Women Who Survive

Woman falling in love is almost dead,

























HEH HEH HEH

OF COURSE I
WILL SO LONG AS
YOU COME BEFORE
I DIE. CHEER UP!

AND THEY
DON'T CARE
WHETHER
OR NOT THE
OTHERS
KITE

THE BIG FISH
LAUGH LIKE YOU
WHEN THEY GET
OFF THE HOOK

PEEP

MEOW







WHAT?
HE'S NOT
FROM
SEIBU?

LET'S SEE...
I THINK HE
SAID TAMA ART
UNIVERSITY

WHAT
SCHOOL IS THE
NEW FINE ARTS
PROFESSOR
FROM?

HAA-CHOO!

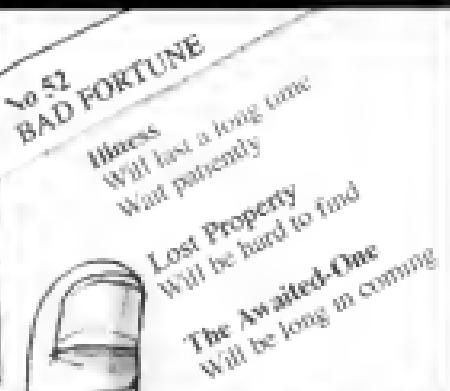
BUT HE'S
A GOOD SORT AND
DOESN'T DRAW
BADLY

WELL HE
APPLIED THERE
THREE TIMES

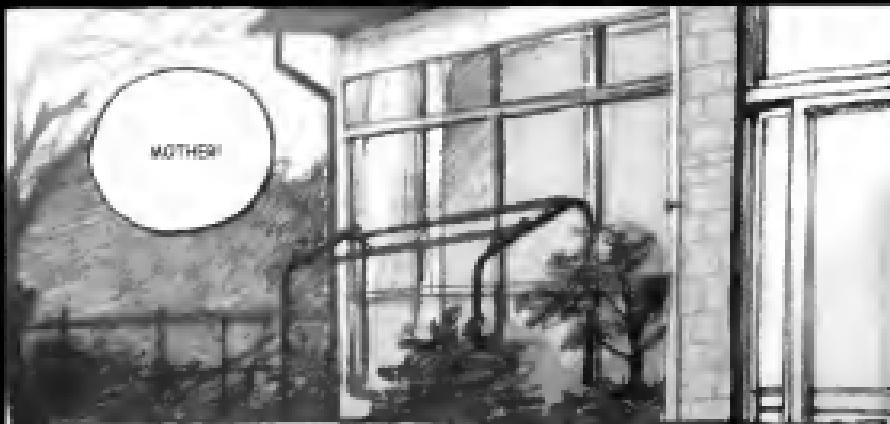








Money
Adverse
Gambling
If you play for
high stakes,
You will win

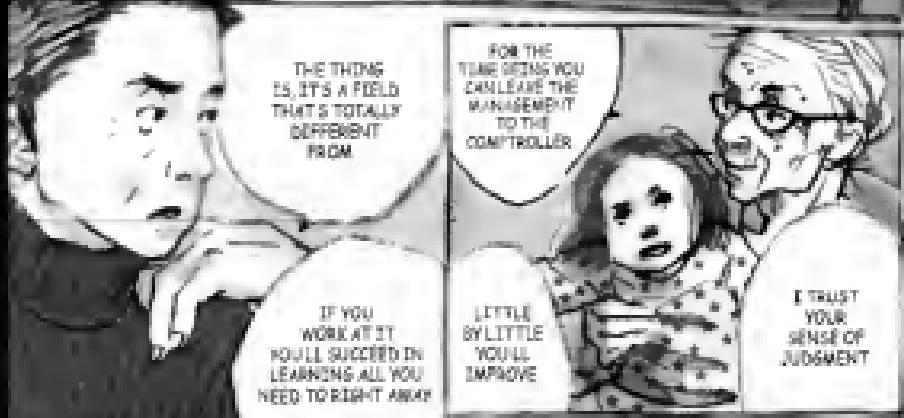
















MOTHER: NO!
SHELL GET
CAVITIES!

SACHO:
WOULD YOU
LIKE SOME
MORE ICE
CREAM?

I'LL BE VERY
LATE... YOU GO
AHEAD AND GO
TO BED.

ARE YOU
GOING BACK
TO THE OFFICE
DEAR? WILL
YOU COME
HOME
EARLY?

YES
I DO.

15:00 WHEN
DO YOU HAVE
100 YEN
PLEASER?

NO, I'LL
WAIT UP
FOR YOU.

THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH.

IF YOU'RE
GOING TO THE
OFFICE TELL
MR. SERIBUCHI
I'M VERY SORRY
TO HAVE HURT
ARMY HIS VALUED
SUBORDINATE.

I'LL CALL YOU
SHALL WE GET
TOGETHER SOME
TIME NEXT
WEEK?

HA HA HA!
I WILL.

SURE

THANKS
FOR THE
MEAL.



GRANDMA,
DO YOU
KNOW WHICH
SUBWAY STOP
IS YOURS?

I HAVE
TO RUN A FEW
ERRANDS
TILL TAKE THE
TRAIN

AREN'T YOU
COMING WITH US?
ARE YOU GONE?

YES,
HONEY

DON'T YOU THINK
GRANDMOTHER CAN
MANAGE TO GET
HOME WITHOUT
MAKING ANY
MISTAKES?

YES, SACHI,
THANK YOU







HAVE
WEATHERED
MANY MANY
YEARS

IN THIS
TOUGH CITY
HAVEN T WE?

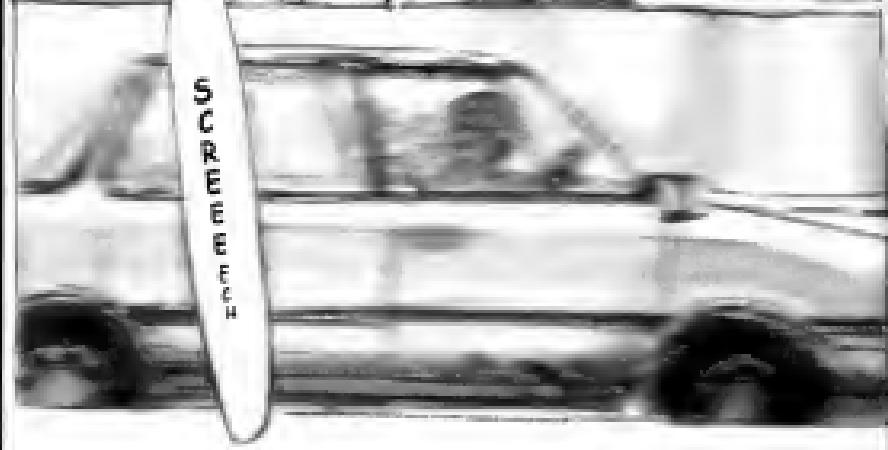


























Good breeding

Yuko and me

Yuko worked as a graphic designer in the U.S. but, tired of everyday life, she quit her job and went to live in Paris. Once, when she returned to Japan, she came to see me and we went to eat sushi. It was an odd mix, the elegant Yuko, her Israeli boyfriend, my boss and I. Yuko has a peculiarly detached way of seeing the world and we spent a lot of time talking about things like "what is love?" and so on. We even talked about lesbianism, though of course nothing happened between us. She gave me some books too. At the time of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center I called her because I remembered she had mentioned something about going back to New York soon, but I wasn't able to get hold of her because she had moved. She loves comics so maybe she'll email me if she reads this.



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Kinderbook: A Picture Story for Melancholic Girls

"Un livre pour les enfants mélancoliques"

































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Highway, Motel, Skyline 1.

[2001 amid a heat wave] モーテル

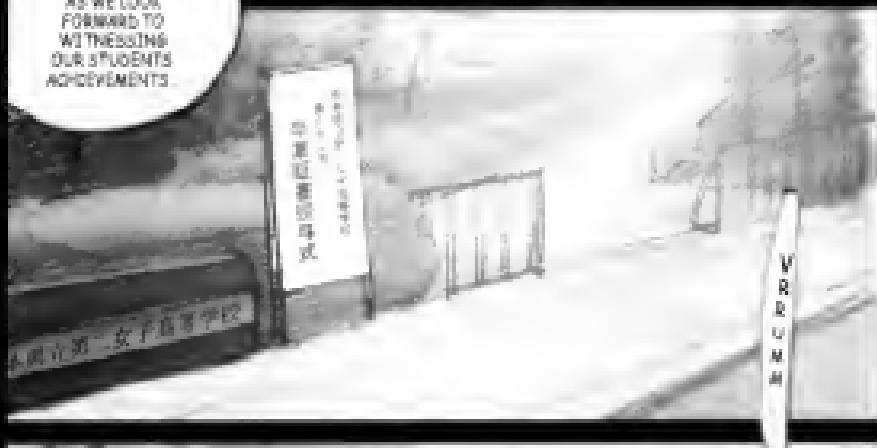
スカイライン





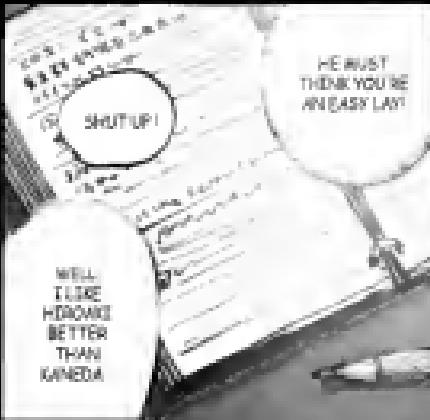
AS YOU
CONTEMPLATE THE
PATHS ALONG WHICH
THE NEW SET OF
CHALLENGES YOU'LL FACE
IN FUTURE PURSUITS.

OUR PRIVILEGE
TO CELEBRATE YOUR
ACCOMPLISHMENTS
AS WE LOOK
FORWARD TO
WITNESSING
OUR STUDENTS'
ACHIEVEMENTS.



























AND DON'T EVEN THINK OF GOING TO BED WITH THEM...

THE ONE WITH THE BLEACHED HAIR WHO ONLY THINKS ABOUT SPREADING...

...AND PLEASE DON'T GO OUT WITH THAT GOOD-FOR-NOTHING ANY MORE. I DON'T LIKE YOUNG MEN LIKE THAT. I DON'T WANT 'EM.





I WANT YOU
TO SIT BACK AND
ENJOY THE THRILL
OF SPEEDING DOWN
THE HIGHWAY
AT 300 MPH...

TRUST ME
I KNOW THE
ROADS WELL.

AND
THE CO'S
WILL STOP
YOU ANY
TIME IT?

THE
EVUSHU
HIGHWAY
IS VERY
STRaight

BESIDES
I JUST KNOW
THAT TONIGHT
WE'RE GOING
HAVE...

A
MEMORABLE
LAST DATE

V
A
R
B
O
R
E



Good breeding

So and me

So, who's from Taiwan and studies in Japan, is a very good cook. The other day he invited me over for some Chinese medicinal soup made from a hen he had slaughtered himself. Back in his country So was an army commander and, the truth is, he is just a primitive Chinese living abroad who once, when there wasn't anything else, heartlessly

killed a nursing dog and ate her. He's very handsome (though he drives the shabby car of a non-descript man).

In Japan too, up to my mother's generation, there were people in some regions who were used to killing chickens for dinner. All the same to our generation that is an act of killing a living being, and it is undeniably abhorrent. In any case, in So's cultural sphere, killing chickens is still regarded as something natural and if I look at it from his point of view, maybe it's all right. The truth of the matter is that nowadays the Japanese do not kill animals for food nor do they recite Buddhist sutras nor are they taken aback by vipers...maybe it's time we started to learn the Hannya Shingyō?



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Red Candles Futile Love

1
11,
01
恋



"Red Candles Love"
Kun Fukuhara
2001 Fall

Location
Tokyo (Komagome)
Expo
"Red Candles Love"
by Kun Fukuhara

2001

<http://www.kf.com.jp/red/>

<https://www.kf.com.jp/~momo/>



AND THEN
WHAT HAPPENED?
HOW DID THE
MERMAIDS GET
AWAY?

ROMMY,
GO ON.

B
A
N
G



YES.
HER HAIR
WAS BLACK.
JET BLACK.



IF YOU
ENJOY
ANYONE YOU
WILL COME
TO HAM TOO.
IT'S TERRIBLE
AISHITA BUT
YOU WOULDN'T
HAM ANYONE
WOULD YOU?



TODAY IS
SPECIAL

THEY'RE
STARTED HOW'S
IT GOING
I'LL BE
RIGHT
THERE



DON'T
WORRY.
THERE'S LOTS
OF PEOPLE
HELPING
ALREADY



FASCINATED?
WHAT'S
THAT?



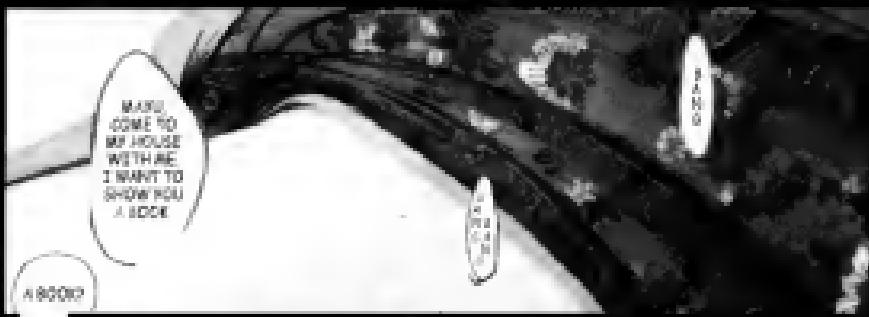


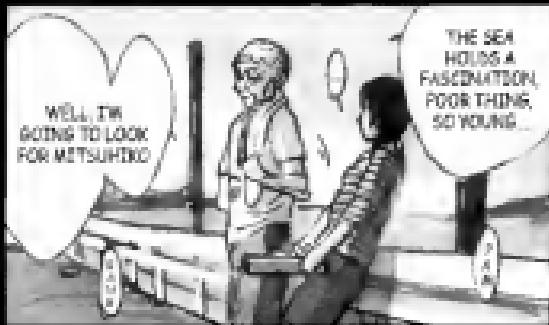












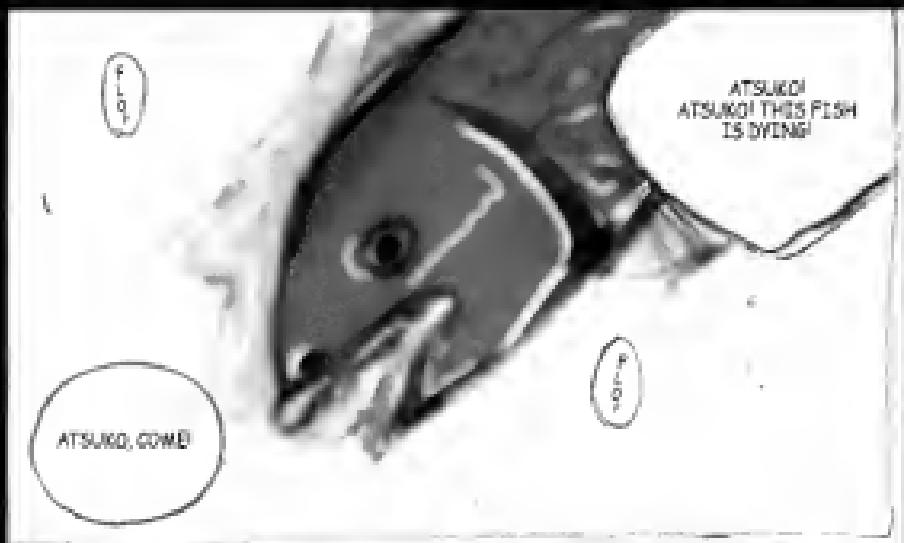


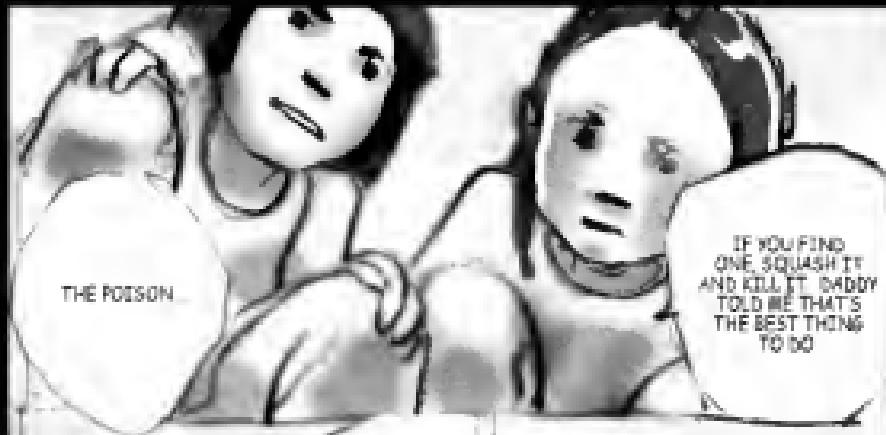
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Five-Legged Shadow







ALL HE
DOES IS
BREATHE.
THAT'S IT

HE SLEEPS
ALL THE TIME
HE HARDLY
KNOWS WHO I
AM WHEN I CALL
HIS NAME

I
ALREADY
HAVE

CHEER
UP, PAPA!

WE'LL COME BACK
ANOTHER DAY

WE
ARE
HERE
TO
HELP
YOU

WE
ARE
HERE
TO
HELP
YOU

TRY TO
RECONCILE
YOURSELF TO













IS GRANDMA
GOING TO DIE
SOON TOO?

WHAT
MAKES YOU
SAY THAT?

OF
COURSE
NOT!

I'M HAPPY...

HA, HA, HA!

TIME FOR
BED, ATSUOKI



MM, MM, MM...

IT'S LATE
YOU CAN
PLAY SOME
MORE
TOMORROW

DO YOU
WANT TO
TAKE YOUR
SNOOPY TO
BED WITH
YOU?

DON'T
YOU WANT
IT...?

TO TELL THE
TRUTH I DON'T
MIND IF I DO
NOW!



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Minanogawa Blues

Like the Minanogawa that starts its fall at the peak of Mount Tsukuba my love has swollen on its course and fills a channel deep and still. -Emperor Yōzei (868-949)





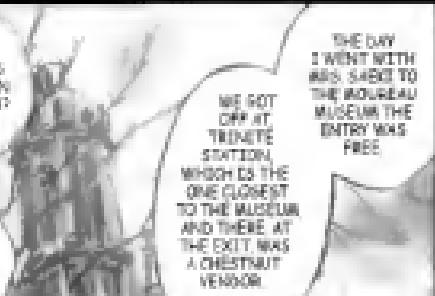


YEAH, BUT THE FACT IS THIS IS NOT AN ORDINARY CHESTNUT.



LISTEN DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS...?

LOOK AT IT CAREFULLY AND THINK...

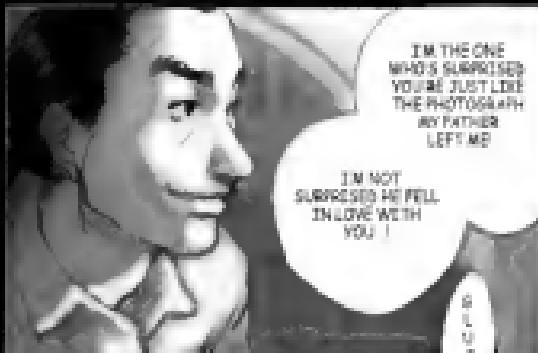


THE DAY I WENT WITH MRS. SAINT TO THE LOUVRE MUSEUM, THE ENTRY WAS FREE.













I DON'T
KNOW THE WAY AND
IT TOOK ME 9 HOURS
TO DRIVE HERE. I
SHOULD'VE MADE IT
EARLIER.

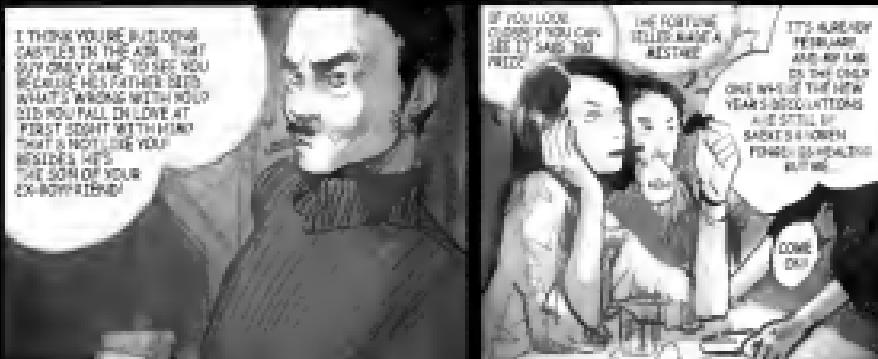
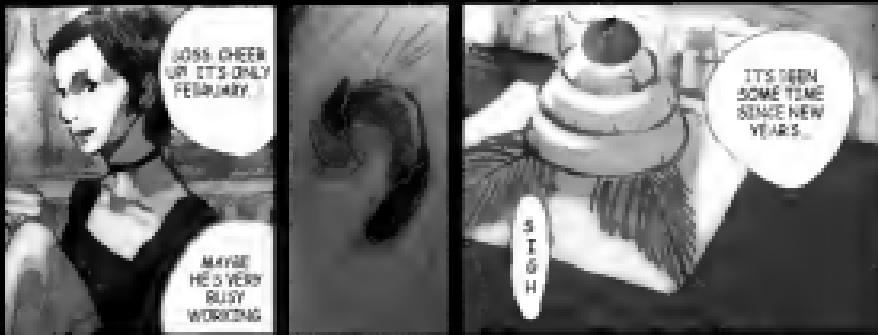


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A
P





Last Exchanges due to budgetary problems













Thanks a lot
and have a good
New Year!
128 2002. Ken



Good breeding

Mr. Jambo and me

Mr. Jambo is Iranian of an American father who worked in construction there. He came to Japan on a work permit and, every month, he sent money back home. As he was industrious, he was held in great esteem by his boss so he earned a fairly good salary. Back then I was a student with no money so he used to invite me out to eat because he felt sorry for me and once, when my shoes were very worn, he bought me a new pair... he was always very kind to me. We would laugh because our relationship ran counter to the usual relations between Japanese and Iranians in Japan. Mr. Jambo used to lament the fact he could never forget a former Japanese girlfriend who had been very kind and loving. The day before he left for his own country he told me he would not be able to come back to Japan after he returned to Iran. He said that, after having had a taste of freedom, it would be tough adjusting to a society with such strict rules. He drove his car along at 75 mph and said, laughing, "It's just for today".



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Over There, Beautiful Binary Suns

CRUNCH

ONE TWO

DIDN'T YOU
SAY WITH THE
RIGHT ONE?

I DOP

NO, YOU'VE GOT TO
START WITH THE
LEFT FOOT

OK, OK,
I SEE... DON'T
LOSE YOUR
TEMPER...

IT'S NOT THE SAME
AT ALL! THIS IS VERY
IMPORTANT!

THE LEFT
WERE NOT
RUNNING
A RACE!

IT
AMOUNTS
TO THE
SAME
THING...







YOUR WIFE
IS ALL WRINKLED
AND YOU DONT
FEEL LIKE
MAKING LOVE TO
HER ANY MORE
THAT'S WHY YOU
NEEDED ANOTHER
WOMAN,
THAT'S ALL

YOU NEVER
LOVED ME

WHAT'S
WRONG?

URURUUM

YOU'RE
JUST
LIKE
ALL THE
REST!

SWEET

I'M SORRY
KICHIKO, BUT YOU
MAKE ME HORNY.

WHAT!



OF COURSE
I WOULD
YOU GET
SUCH CRAZY
IDEAS!

IF I WERE
TO BECOME A
PARAPLEGIC
WOULD YOU
STILL LOVE
ME?

I DON'T
BELIEVE
YOU!

FOR ME TO
LOVE IS TO
FEEL LIKE
MAKING-
LOVE

WHY
NOT?

SOH!

YOU'RE
LYING! I'M SURE
YOU'D DESERT ME
FOR SOMEONE
ELSE

OOF

WICHIGO

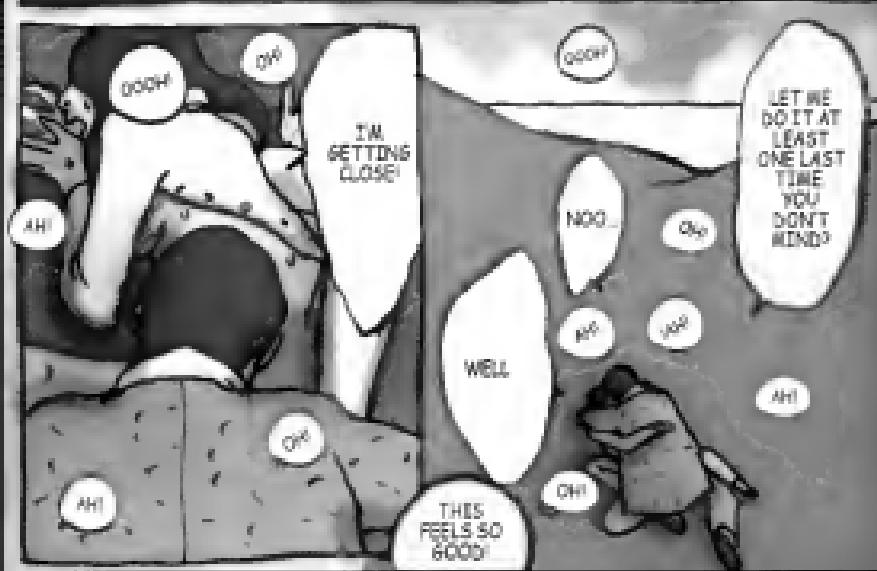
AH!















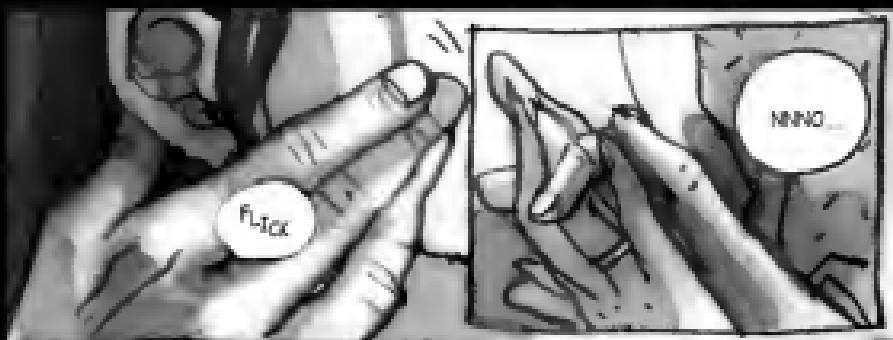








I DO

















157



156

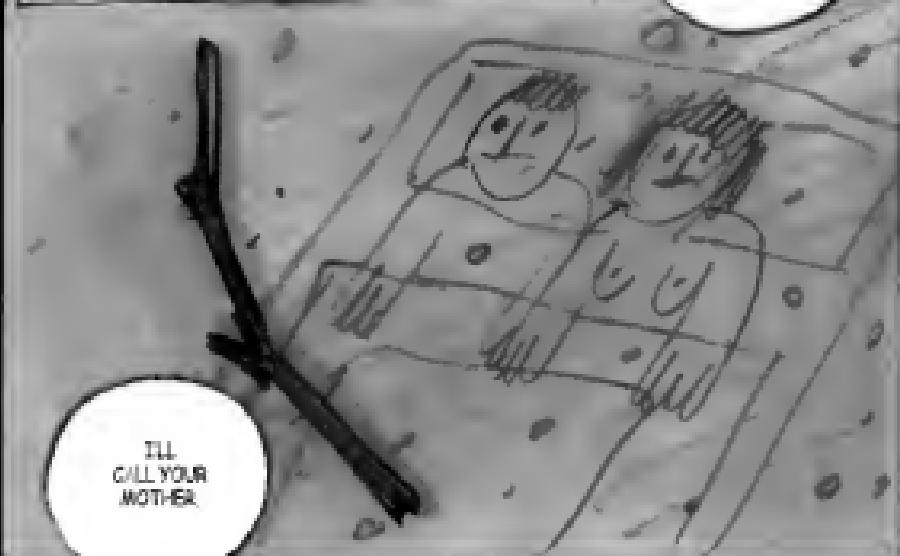


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158



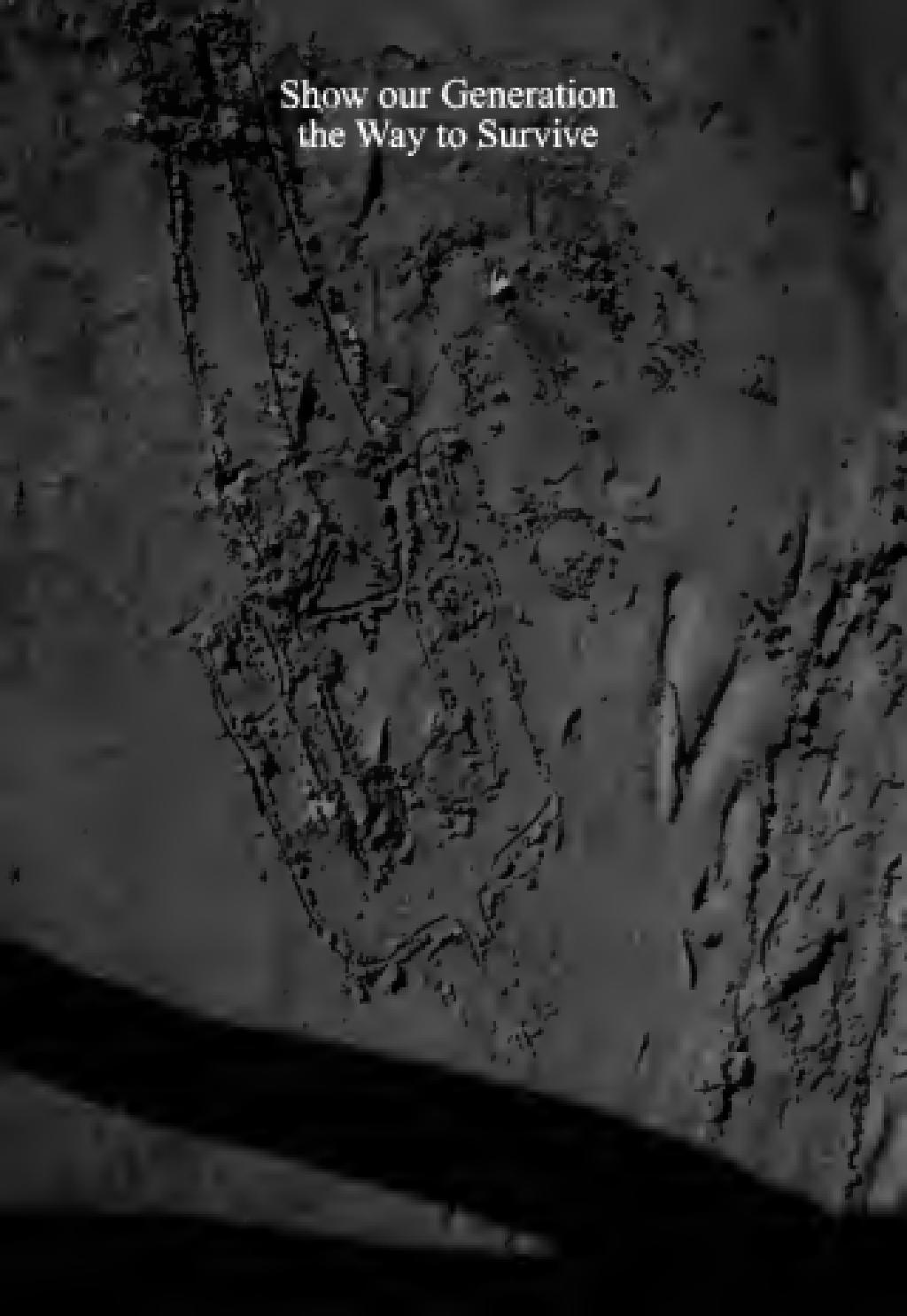






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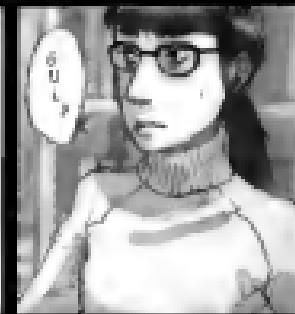


Show our Generation
the Way to Survive













YOUR BOYFRIEND'S OUT OF HOSPITAL, CAN'T THEY?



OR, LET'S HAVE A TOAST!

ONE FOR ALL AND ALL FOR ONE



THESE ARE HUMAN RELATIONS
NOT FOR YOU. WHY DON'T YOU LOOK FOR ANOTHER GUY?



THAT'S WHY I'M TIRED

HAVE HIS PARENTS ARRANGED



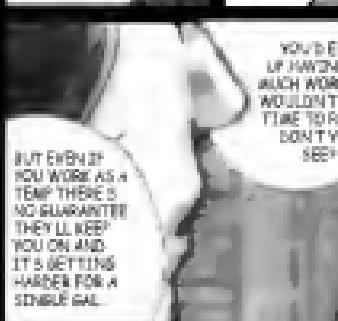
YEAR AYAO, I LIKE YOU AND YOUR PERSONA, LITTA



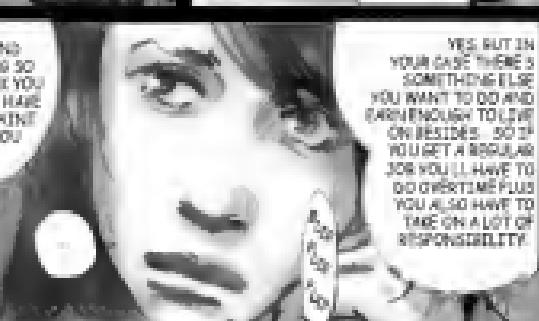
AYAO, CHEERFUL SOUL. EVER HEAR NOTHING SWEET?

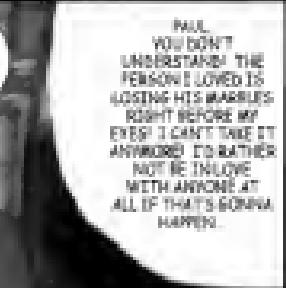
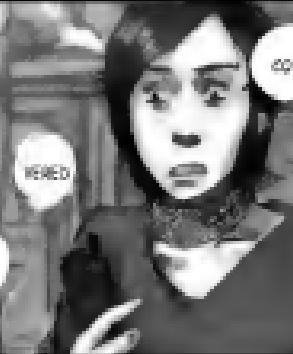






YOU END
UP HAVING SO
MUCH WORK YOU
WOULDN'T HAVE
TIME TO PRINT
DON'T YOU
SEE?















A MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE IS HUMILIATING. IT JUSTIFIES INEQUALITY AMONG MEN AND WOMEN.

YOU DON'T GET MARRIED FOR LOVE. SO IT'S A MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE. IT'S A MARRIAGE OF HUMILIATION. IT'S A MARRIAGE OF INEQUALITY. IT'S A MARRIAGE OF DISRESPECT. IT'S A MARRIAGE OF DISRESPECT. IT'S A MARRIAGE OF DISRESPECT. IT'S A MARRIAGE OF DISRESPECT.



BESIDES OUR RELATIONSHIP IS OPEN. SHE CAN HAVE ALL THE BOYFRIENDS SHE WANTS.

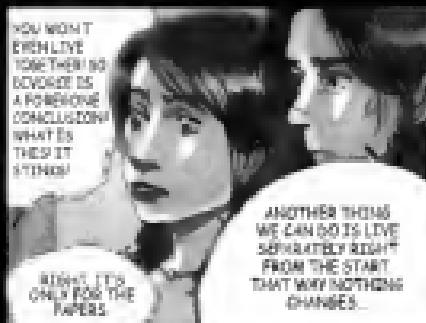


TRUE.



ARE YOU SERIOUS?

YEAH.



"Tell me how to survive!"

Setting: 1980s USA (1980s New York)

Genre: Realistic Books (<http://www.babelio.com/>)



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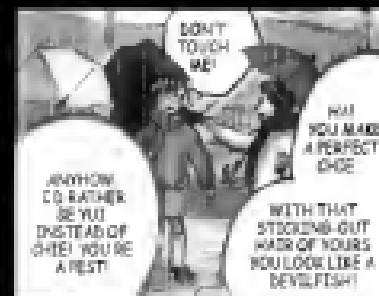
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Funnyface's Family



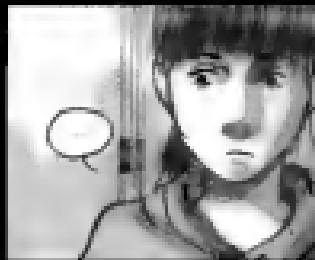












WOW! IT'S SO COOL!

WOW! WHAT'S THIS?



THAT WOMAN'S CRYING FREAK...

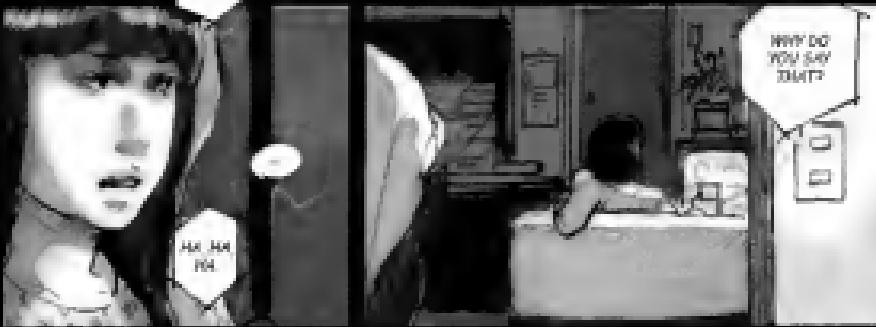


HEY GUYS, I FEEL MY PENIS HAS GOTTEN HARD...



















'Runaway's Family'
by Ken Takahashi

2002 Spring

Strong 1996

Reference: 'Exploded Knowledge'



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On Past Love and Drinking in Sips



MY GRANDMOTHER USUALLY HAS A DRINK ALONE BEFORE GOING TO BED



SHE ALWAYS DRINKS A 5-OZ CAN, TRIAL SIZE, AND SHE NIBBLES AT SOME SARDINES OR TOFU OR MAYBE A BIT OF CHEESE.



SHE SAYS IT HELPS HER FORGET HER FEAR SHE MIGHT NOT WAKE UP AGAIN AFTER SHE FALLS ASLEEP.



ONCE I WENT WITH MY GRANDMOTHER TO THE MOVIES IN TOWN TO SEE "THE BRIDES OF MADISON COUNTY."

MY GRANDMOTHER READS A LOT OF ROMANCE NOVELS. HER BOOKSHELF IS FULL OF BOOKS WITH TITLES THAT I THINK ARE POISONT.



I KNOW SHE ALSO KEEPS A FEW EXOTIC BOOKS HIDDEN BEHIND THOSE



IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THAT ROBERT KENNAUD'S SON FACE REMINDED HER OF THE CHEERFUL ONE OF MY GRANDFATHER WHO DIED BEFORE HE WAS 40.



I FELT THE CASTING WAS A SET OFF BUT I DON'T SAY ANYTHING BECAUSE IT SEEMED TO ME THAT MY GRANDMOTHER WAS CRYING.



IT TAKES A WHILE TO TRANSFORM LOVE INTO SOMETHING SUBLIME



OR THE SHORT TIME WHEN THE BAMBOO FLOWERS...



...WHEN THE BIRDS RETURN SO OFTEN



THE HEROINE OF THE NOVEL
MY GRANDMOTHER SAID I
WASN'T TOLD ENOUGH TO
READ WAS A POOR WOMAN
WHO WAS TANNED ONLY
FROM THE NECK UP



A GRIEF-STREWN WOMAN
UNABLE TO FORGET THE MAN WHO
DIED AT SEA WHILST FISHING



THE POOR TELLS HOW SHE TOOK A
CUSTOMER, FOR JUST ONE NIGHT,
TO MAKE SOME MONEY TO LIVE ON



AND THAT THE MAN WAS
UNEXPECTEDLY TENDER TO
HER. I THINK IT IS A
HEART-BREAKING STORY.



I FORGET THE TITLE





THE ONLY PERSON WHOSE HOPELESS DESPAIR
I SHARED AS A STUDENT



ON TODAY'S MAIL, TOGETHER WITH A
BILL FOR MY CELL PHONE, I GOT A LETTER
FROM SOMEONE WHOSE BRIEFLY BROUGHT
BACK NOSTALGIC MEMORIES



I CALLED HIS PARENTS RIGHT AWAY AND TOOK
HEM TO SEE A DOCTOR. HE WAS VERY DEPRESSED



ONCE, WHEN I RETURNED TO THE APARTMENT,
HE WAS ABOUT TO HANG HIMSELF



IN HIS LETTER HE TELLS ME HE'S SETTING UP HIS



BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I SENSE THAT THIS
PERFECT LOVE HAS COME FULL CIRCLE



I FEEL THERE IS NO LONGER ANY
LOVE BETWEEN US



I WONDER IF MY GRANDMOTHER IS BREWING TONIGHT TOO





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